

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/EP 03/05910

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER				
IPC 7	G01N33/68	A61P25/28	A01K67/027	C12N15/00
				C07K14/705

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 G01N C07K

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

BIOSIS, EMBASE, EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	<p>STOCCHI DOUGLAS M: "Tracking the role of a StAR in the sky of the new millennium." MOLECULAR ENDOCRINOLOGY, vol. 15, no. 8, August 2001 (2001-08), pages 1245-1254, XP002241663 ISSN: 0888-8809 page 1246, column 2, paragraph 2 -page 1247, column 2, paragraph 3</p> <p>---</p> <p>-/-</p>	4,10,11

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the International filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the International filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the International filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the International search	Date of mailing of the International search report
26 November 2003	04/12/2003
Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer Schalich, J

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	KALLEN C B ET AL: "UNVEILING THE MECHANISM OF ACTION AND REGULATION OF THE STEROIDOGENIC ACUTE REGULATORY PROTEIN" MOLECULAR AND CELLULAR ENDOCRINOLOGY, AMSTERDAM, NL, vol. 145, no. 1/2, 25 October 1998 (1998-10-25), pages 39-45, XP000900751 ISSN: 0303-7207 page 41 -page 43	4,10,11
X	CARON KATHLEEN M ET AL: "Targeted disruption of the mouse gene encoding steroidogenic acute regulatory protein provides insights into congenital lipoid adrenal hyperplasia." PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF THE UNITED STATES, vol. 94, no. 21, 1997, pages 11540-11545, XP002241664 1997 ISSN: 0027-8424 the whole document	5
X	WO 01 32920 A (METRIS THERAPEUTICS LTD ;PAPPA HELEN (GB); LNENICEK MIRNA (GB)) 10 May 2001 (2001-05-10) claims 55,56	5
X	WO 00 66728 A (SAVITZKY KINNERET ;COMPUGEN LTD (IL); MINTZ LIAT (IL)) 9 November 2000 (2000-11-09) example III	9
X	KIMOTO TETSUYA ET AL: "Neurosteroid synthesis by cytochrome P450-containing systems localized in the rat brain hippocampal neurons: N-methyl-D-aspartate and calcium-dependent synthesis." ENDOCRINOLOGY, vol. 142, no. 8, August 2001 (2001-08), pages 3578-3589, XP002241665 ISSN: 0013-7227 the whole document	10-12
Y	WO 99 52519 A (GEN HOSPITAL CORP) 21 October 1999 (1999-10-21) page 2, paragraph 2	1-12
Y	US 5 556 847 A (JOHNSON DAVID A ET AL) 17 September 1996 (1996-09-17) column 1, line 1 -column 2, line 20	1-12

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Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
Rule 39.1(iv) PCT – Method for treatment of the human or animal body by surgery: claim 6
Rule 39.1(iv) PCT – Method for treatment of the human or animal body by therapy: claim 7
2. Claims Nos.: because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210
3. Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
 No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box I.2

Present claim 4 relates to a compound defined by reference to a desirable characteristic or property, namely to modulate a level or an activity of a transcription or translation product of the STAR gene.

The claims cover all compounds having this characteristic or property, whereas the application provides support within the meaning of Article 6 PCT and disclosure within the meaning of Article 5 PCT for only a very limited number of such compounds. In the present case, the claims so lack support, and the application so lacks disclosure, that a meaningful search over the whole of the claimed scope is impossible. Independent of the above reasoning, the claims also lack clarity (Article 6 PCT). An attempt is made to define the compound by reference to a result to be achieved. Again, this lack of clarity in the present case is such as to render a meaningful search over the whole of the claimed scope impossible. Consequently, the search has been restricted to: antibodies and antisense oligonucleotides binding to the STAR protein or oligonucleotide.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims, or parts of claims, relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure.

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Information on patent family members

International Application No

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Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
WO 0132920	A 10-05-2001	AU 1159601 A		14-05-2001
		EP 1238104 A2		11-09-2002
		WO 0132920 A2		10-05-2001
		US 2003124551 A1		03-07-2003
WO 0066728	A 09-11-2000	AU 4310400 A		17-11-2000
		EP 1175492 A1		30-01-2002
		WO 0066728 A1		09-11-2000
		US 2003105049 A1		05-06-2003
WO 9952519	A 21-10-1999	AU 765603 B2		25-09-2003
		AU 3557199 A		01-11-1999
		CA 2328197 A1		21-10-1999
		DE 1073432 T1		07-02-2002
		EP 1073432 A2		07-02-2001
		ES 2164040 T1		16-02-2002
		HU 0101627 A2		28-10-2001
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		WO 9952519 A2		21-10-1999
		US 2002193429 A1		19-12-2002
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